Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue #2 Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC 7 May 2021

Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each issue is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message often for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at **@bugdocisin** on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, commented on a few photos about "some of my oldest cotton…stands look good, getting first true leaves. A lot of dead insects…aldicarb must be working."

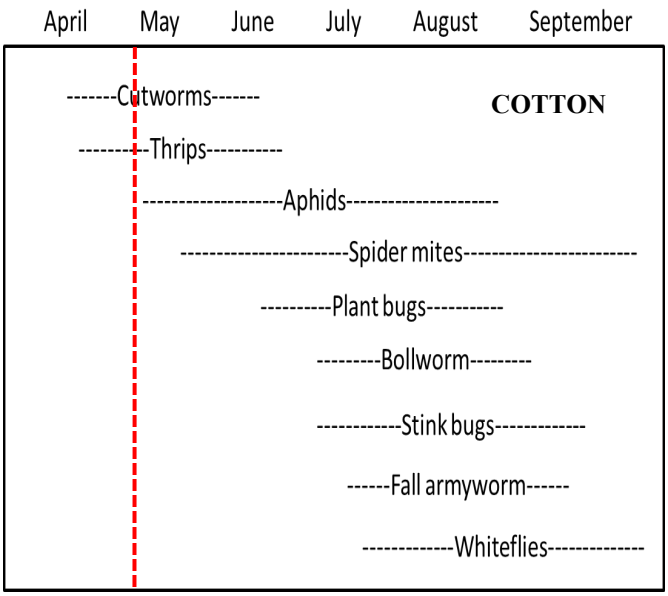
Scouting Workshops and Field Days

As we transition out of this pandemic and move back to in-person meetings, we are planning on having several in-field, in-person workshops devoted to scouting for insect issues in cotton and soybeans. These scouting workshops are tentatively being scheduled for late July 2021. Hopefully, by then, we are back to some sort of normal operations for meetings and trainings. We will continue to update on progress in planning for those workshops. If we have to, we can offer some sort of virtual scouting workshop, but we all know that in-person opportunities work best for actually learning in the field. Also, we are planning to have an in-person field day here at the Edisto REC on 2 September 2021, with at least row crops (cotton, soybeans, peanuts, corn, grain sorghum, etc.) covered. Stay tuned for details on those events.

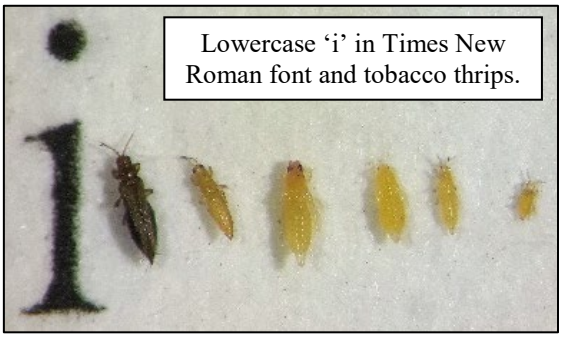
Cotton Situation

As of 2 May 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 18% of the crop has been planted, compared with 7% at this time last week, 10% at this time last year, and 14% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Cotton Insects

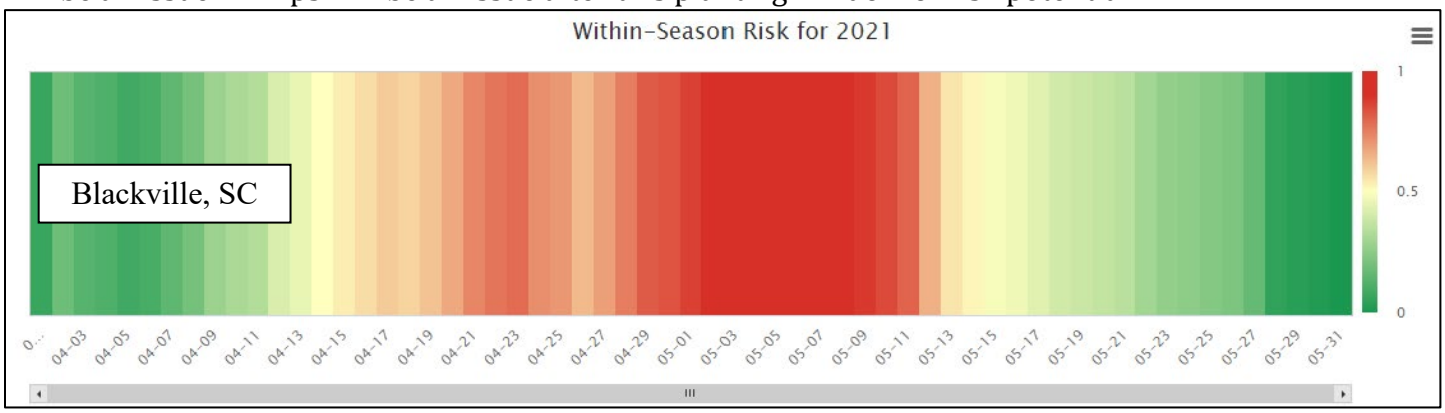


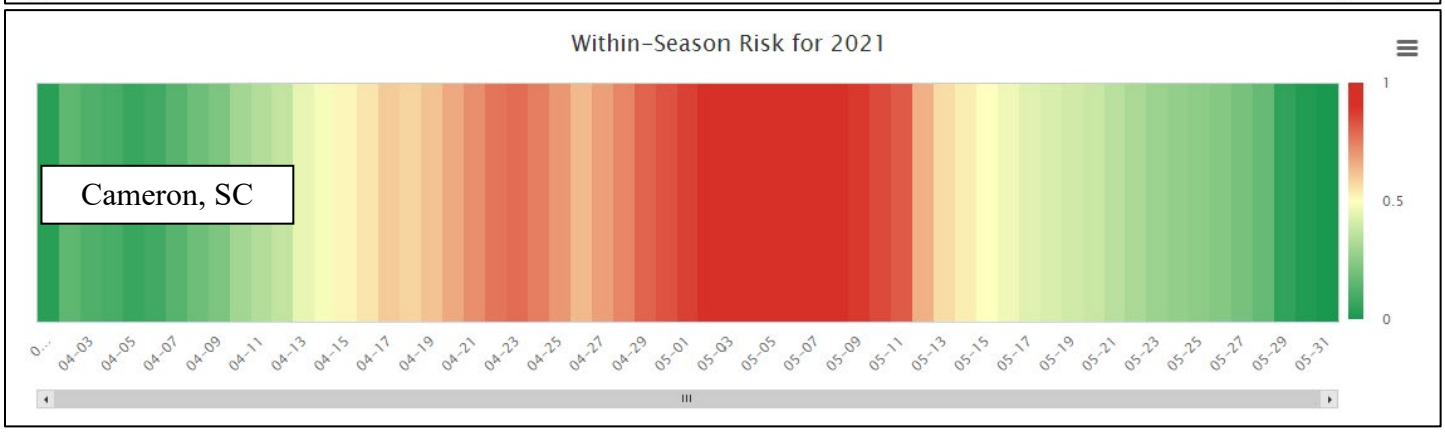
Similar to last week, cotton is still in the bag or just emerging, so we have not had time enough for problems with insects to surface, but they will soon enough. As I mentioned last week, the usual suspects will be thrips, cutworms, and grasshoppers during the seedling stage. The predictive tool for estimating risk of thrips by planting date shows that we are in the window for the worst time to plant in the southern portion of the Coastal Plain in SC, as the risk for injury after the crop emerges is very high for planting dates right now. In this southern and central region of the Coastal Plain in SC, planting during mid- or late June carries a low risk for injury from thrips (charts on next page for Blackville and Cameron). In the Pee Dee Region of the Coastal Plain in SC, risk for thrips injury is showing a heightened risk for thrips for most of the rest of May (chart on next page for Darlington). These charts were all created by using the tool at this link: https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/ag/cottontip/ Again, I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this tool, at least to understand where you are for risk from thrips injury based on planting date. Be patient with the tool, as it takes a minute to run, and understand this is just a tool with predictions based on many factors. It is not always perfectly accurate, but it is pretty close.

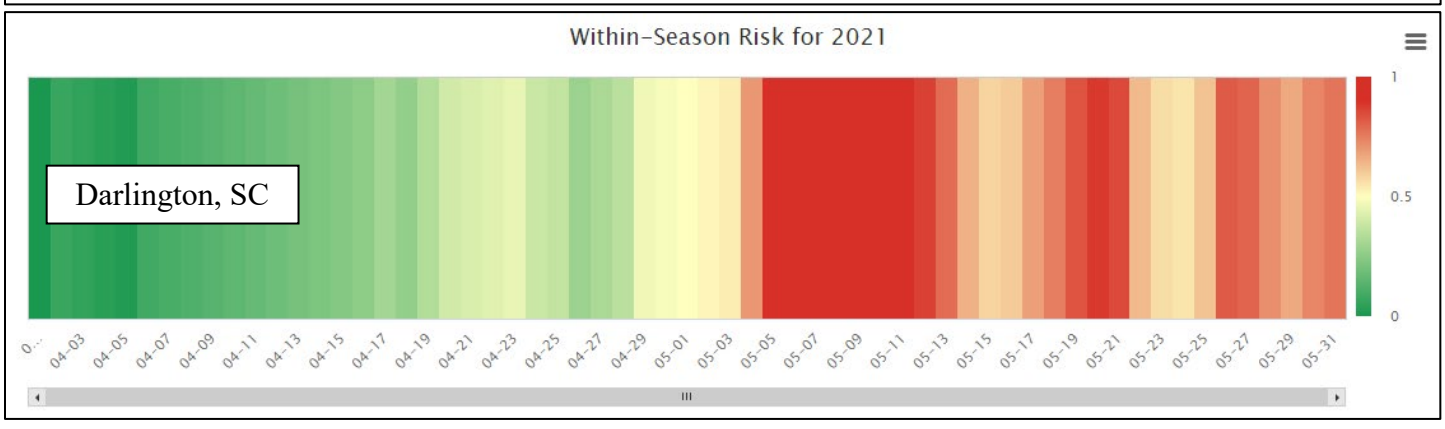


Data for at-plant and foliar chemical control options for thrips were shown in the newsletter last week, so refer to that issue to see the results of several different delivery strategies for insecticides and comparisons of many different active ingredients.

Here are some charts updated for this week showing risk for tobacco thrips on seedling cotton by region in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. This is the risk for planting on the dates showing…not when thrips will be an issue. Thrips will be an issue after this planting window of risk potential.





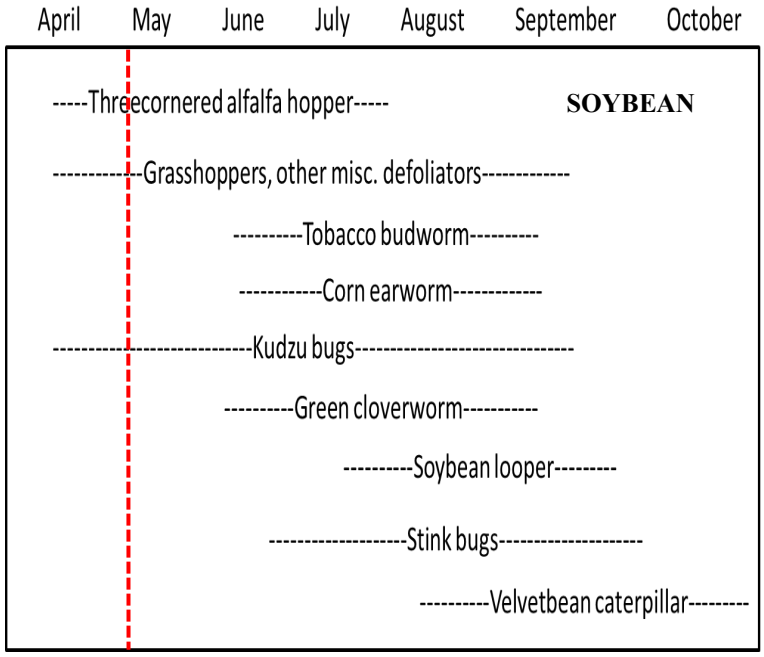


Soybean Situation

As of 2 May 2021, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 8% of the crop has been planted, compared with 2% the previous week, 5% at this time last year, and 4% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Insects

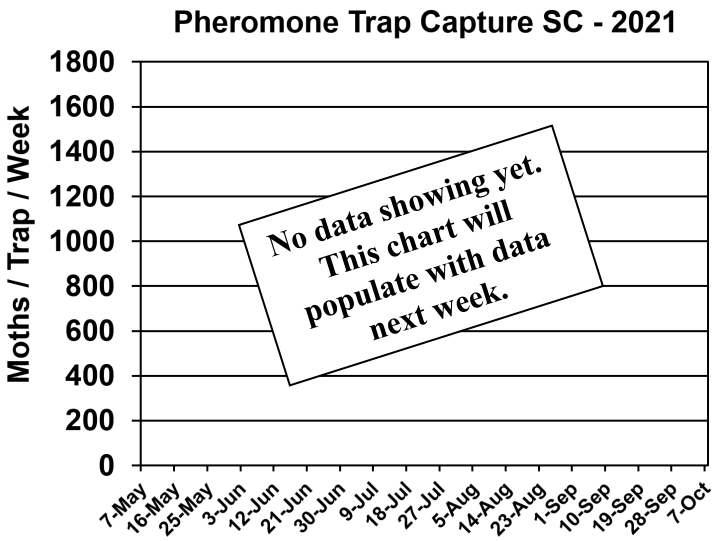
Soybean planting has started, for sure, but there is much remaining to be planted. Insect activity is minimal right now, but we all know that will change once we have plants out of the ground, and biomass starts building. Insects love soybeans.

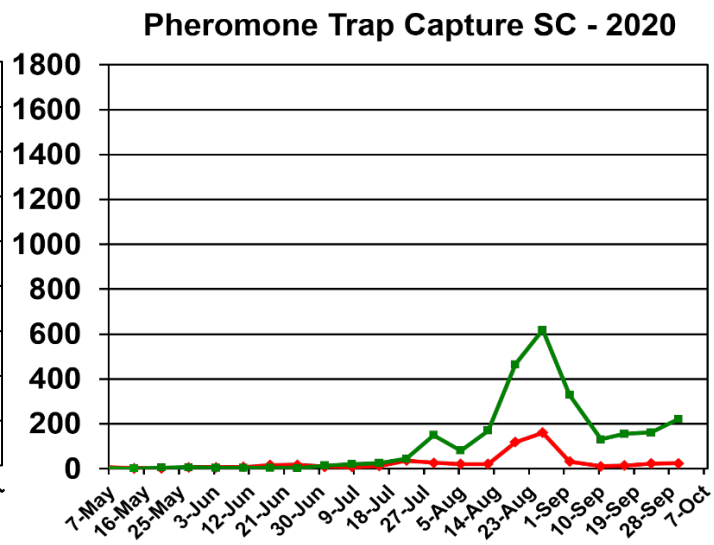


My best advice at this point is to make sure you have plenty of time (at least 10-14 days) between burndown and planting. Do not leave a "green bridge" for insects to move off of dying weeds or cover onto your soybeans. We can see significant issues with this down the road. Grasshoppers, threecornered alfalfa hoppers (TCAH), and other insects can cause injury to young plants that emerge in dying vegetation. I am most concerned about TCAH (photos below of an adult, a nymph, and some stem damage caused by TCAH), but grasshoppers can give us a fit. Consider using the IGR Dimilin (2 fl oz/acre) in areas, especially using minimal tillage (most everywhere, right?), where you have had a problem with grasshoppers in the past. The egg pods are in the soil, and we do not destroy those anymore with tillage. The IGR will only work on nymphs, but it is good. A heavy rate of a pyrethroid is the best option for adults, but they are difficult to control after they attain some size.

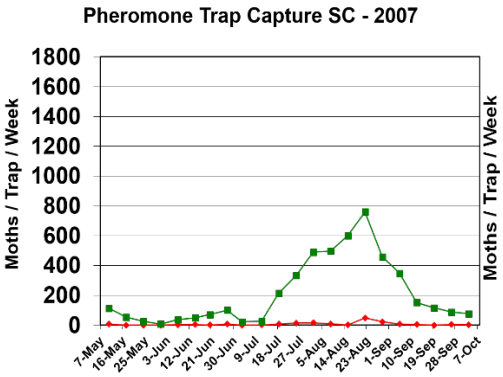
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

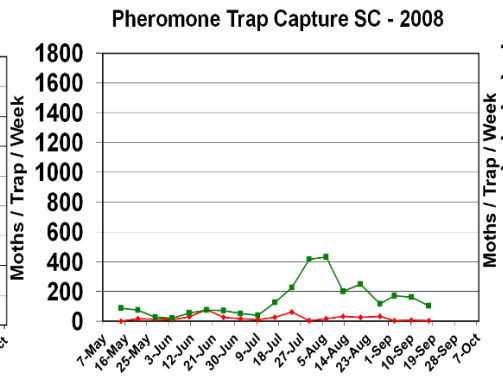
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2020 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

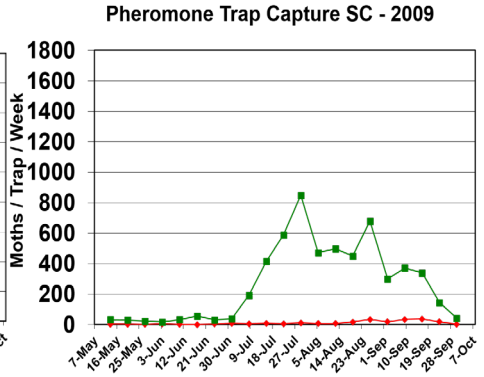




Trap data from 2007-2019 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:







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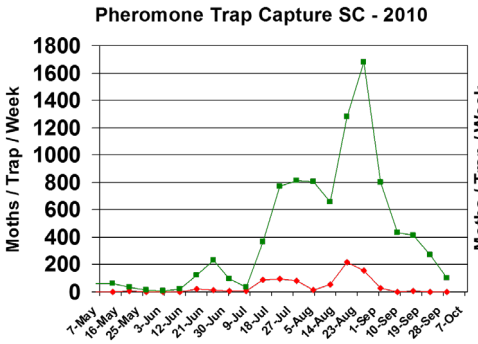
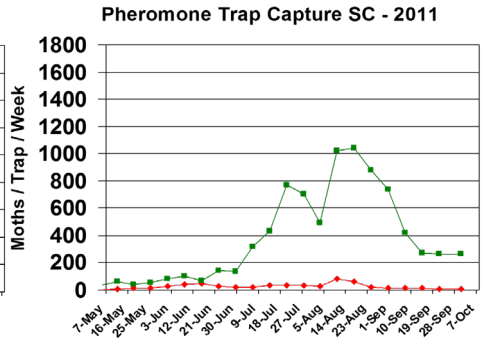
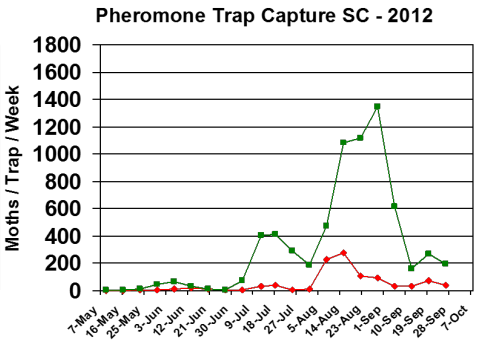
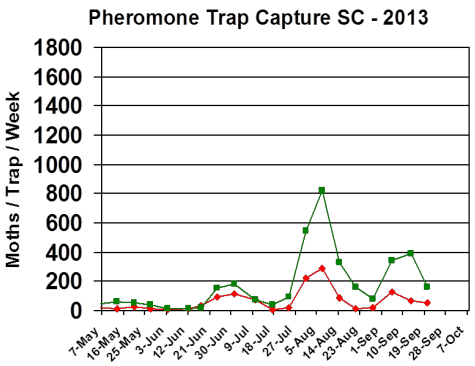
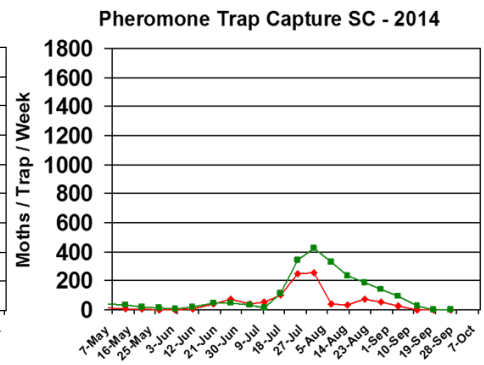
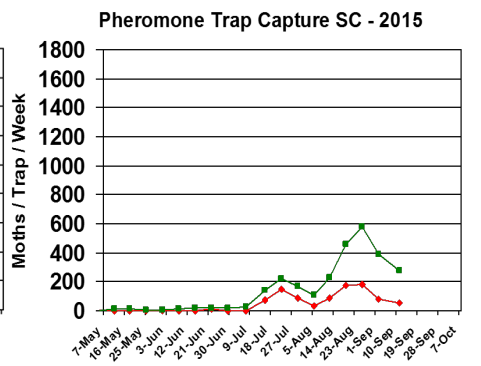


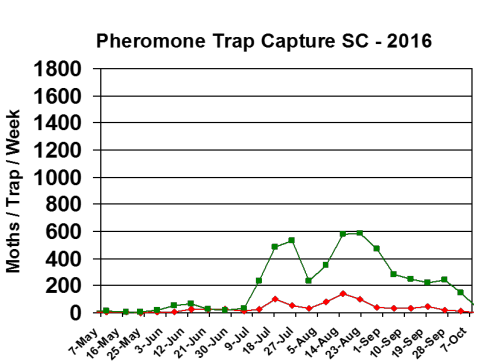


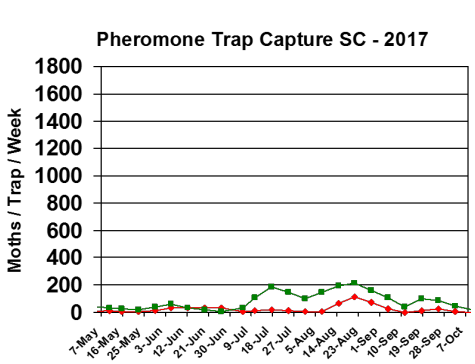


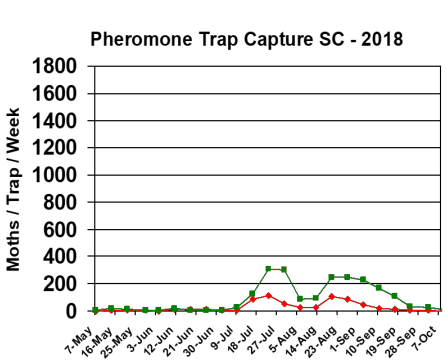


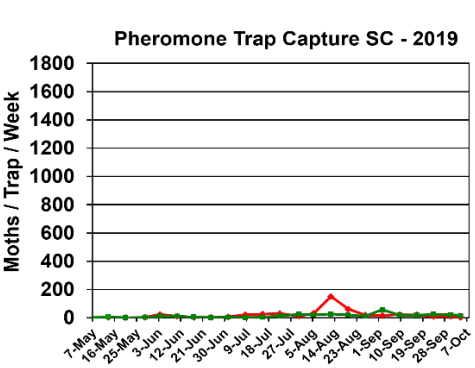








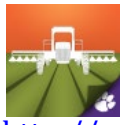




Pest Management Handbook – 2021

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2021 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"



Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology

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